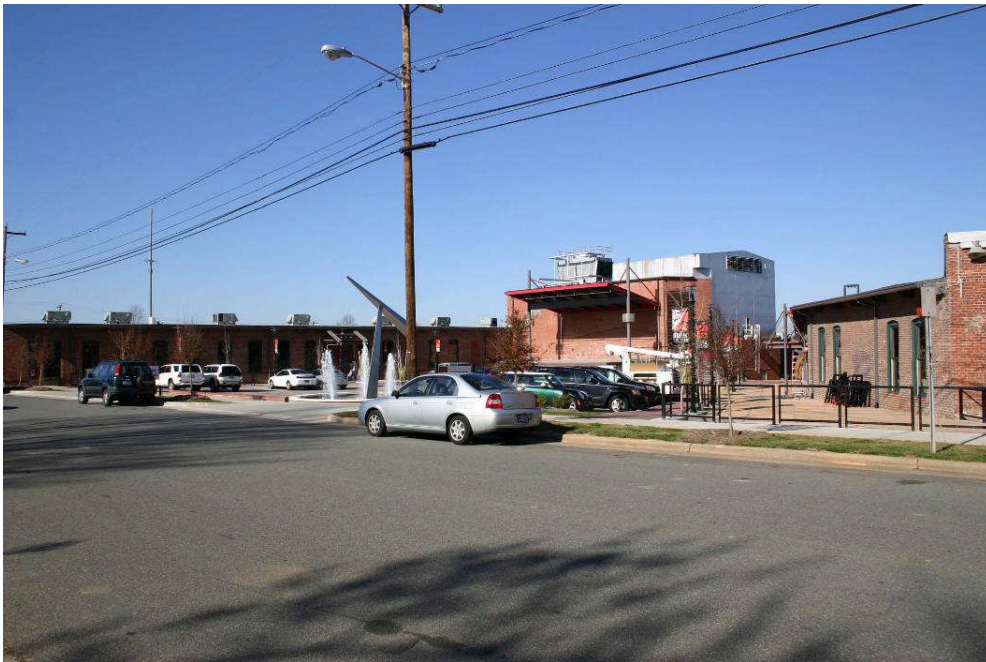


**NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
**Office of Archives and History**  
**Department of Cultural Resources**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Southern Asbestos Company Mills**

Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, MK2715, Listed 1/30/2008  
Nomination by Logan McClintic-Smith and Sheryl Jaslow  
Photographs by Robert Powers, December 2006



Mills #1 and 2, view from Seaboard Street, looking northwest



Mill #2, west elevation, view looking southeast

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Southern Asbestos Company Mills

other names/site number Fiber Mills

2. Location

street & number 1000 Seaboard Street not for publication n/a  
city or town Charlotte vicinity n/a  
state North Carolina code NC county Mecklenburg code 119 zip code 28026

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X locally.  
( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
_____ entered in the National Register	_____	_____
_____ See continuation sheet.		
_____ determined eligible for the	_____	_____
National Register		
_____ See continuation sheet.		
_____ determined not eligible for the	_____	_____
National Register		
_____ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
_____ other (explain): _____		
_____		
_____		

Southern Asbestos Company Mills  
name of property

Mecklenburg County, NC  
county and State

5. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b> (Check as many boxes as apply)	<b>Category of Property</b> (Check only one box)	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b> (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	2	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0	objects
		2	0	Total

<b>Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)</b> N/A	<b>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register</b> 0
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6. Function or Use

<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility	VACANT/not in use
	RECREATION AND CULTURE
	Music Facility

7. Description

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
LATE VICTORIAN/ Late Italianate	foundation brick
	roof synthetic
	walls brick
	other

**Narrative Description**  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)  
See Attached.

Southern Asbestos Company Mills  
name of property

Mecklenburg County, NC  
county and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

### Period of Significance

c.1920 – 1957

### Significant Dates

c. 1920

c. 1946

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Biberstein, R. C. (1859-1931)

## Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation Sheet.

### Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Southern Asbestos Company Mills  
name of property

Mecklenburg County, NC  
county and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 7.403 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 <u>17</u> Zone	<u>514125</u> Easting	<u>3899313</u> Northing	2 <u>      </u> Zone	<u>      </u> Easting	<u>      </u> Northing
3 <u>      </u> Zone	<u>      </u> Easting	<u>      </u> Northing	4 <u>      </u> Zone	<u>      </u> Easting	<u>      </u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See continuation sheet.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Logan McClintic-Smith / Sheryl Jaslow

organization Powers & Co., Inc. date April 19, 2007

street & number 211 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor telephone 215-636-0192

city or town Philadelphia state PA zip code 19107

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Richard Lazes, Fiber Mills LLC

street & number 19401 Old Jetton Road, Suite 101 telephone (704) 987-0612

city or town Cornelius state NC zip code 28031

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Southern Asbestos Company Mills, 1000 Seaboard Street, Mecklenburg County, NC

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### **Description**

The Southern Asbestos Company Mills, standing at 1000 Seaboard Street at the northwest corner of Seaboard and Hamilton Streets, is located in the Uptown Charlotte neighborhood of Charlotte, NC, in an industrial district. The Southern Asbestos Company Mills was constructed in phases primarily between 1904 and 1959, with minor additions in c.1960. This manufacturing plant is positioned near the Seaboard Airline Railroad which runs parallel to Seaboard Street.

The Southern Asbestos Company Mills consists of two red brick buildings (Mills #1 and #2) that are joined by a bridge section (Exhibits #1 and 2 and Photograph #1). The oldest portions of the plant, dating to the early twentieth century, have low-pitched gabled roofs; the newer portions, which date to the mid-twentieth century, have flat roofs. The brick throughout the entire complex is laid in American bond. The sills throughout the plant are brick, as are the lintels of many of the windows. Mills #1 and #2 are positioned in an upside-down V-shaped configuration, surrounding a newly paved courtyard. This courtyard faces south onto Seaboard Street and contains parking spaces, a driveway and a recently installed decorative fountain; the west side of the property aligns with Hamilton Avenue. Open grassy land surrounds the buildings to the east and north.

### **Mill #1**

Mill #1 is one story above grade and has a partially exposed basement (Exhibits #1 and 2 and Photographs #1, 2 and 6). The original portion was built in 1904 and in c. 1920 there were three additions: an L-shaped section was added to the south and east and a smaller L-shaped section to the north and east with a later rectangular piece to its north. In c.1946, a rectangular wing was added to the east elevation of the southern c.1920 addition and a smaller rectangular section was added to the north of the northern c.1920 addition. By c.1955, four more sections, which served as the dust collectors, had been added to the east of the center section of the 1904 building. In c.1960, another very small wing was added onto the north of the southern c.1946 addition. Except as noted, all of the early twentieth-century openings are segmental arches with a lintel and two courses of headers.

The courtyard elevation or west elevation of Mill #1 mostly dates to 1904, except for the north and south ends, which were added in the 1920s and 1940s. The west elevation is divided into two sections, which are north and south of the Bridge Section. The portion south of the Bridge Sections consists of thirteen bays: twelve window openings and one entrance opening in the fifth bay from the south. The segmental arched window openings contain new rectangular replacement one-over-one double-hung aluminum-

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Southern Asbestos Company Mills, 1000 Seaboard Street, Mecklenburg County, NC

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clad windows. The four southernmost bays, added in the 1920s, are placed on a section of the elevation at an angle towards the southwest. The entire west elevation is sheltered by a continuous overhanging wood eave with wide wood rafter tails. A new entrance opening dating to 2006 is located at the fifth bay from the southwest corner of Mill #1. This opening contains a double-leaf flush metal door with four narrow lights and a single-light arched transom. A new contemporary flat steel canopy was added in 2006. The canopy has been painted and is suspended from steel cables, but has no other detailing or ornamentation. A raised platform of concrete and decorative concrete pavers with a pipe railing extends along the west elevation of Mill #1. Additionally, signage has been added in the form of banners that have been attached using stanchions to the mortar joints between the bricks.

The section north of the Bridge Section on the west elevation of Mill #1 was added in three stages in the 1920s and 1940s. Between 1925 and 1929, a two-story, L-shaped addition was added onto the north elevation of the 1904 portion of Mill #1. The west elevation of this 1904 section is no longer visible as it is the connection point for the Bridge Section, but the south elevation is marked by a flat brick parapet. In this same period from 1925 to 1929, a one-story square wing was added into the space between the legs of the "L." The west elevation of this second addition was flush with the west elevation of the first addition, but its north elevation was recessed. Only the west elevation of this addition, which also dates to between 1925 and 1929, remains visible and it is marked by a contemporary metal canopy above a narrow entrance opening and a garage-style entrance opening. Neither opening retains its doorway. Directly north of the second addition is a two-story section, which was built in c.1946. Its west elevation was flush with those of the two prior additions and its north elevation was flush with that of the first addition. The west elevation of this c.1946 addition is one bay wide with a flush single-leaf steel door on the first floor and a window opening on the second floor that has been infilled with brick. The elevation also features a flat brick parapet, which raises the wall height to that of the first addition.

The south elevation of Mill #1 is unfenestrated, but a series of rectangular brick-infilled openings indicate that the elevation originally had approximately twenty-six windows and/or doors. The western half of the south elevation of Mill #1 dates to c.1920; the remainder of the elevation was added in c.1946. A short, flat parapet capped with a strip of contemporary aluminum provides a finishing cap to the south elevation. The ground level slopes down towards the southeast, allowing for an exposed basement level at the eastern half. All of the original basement level window openings have been infilled with brick.

The east elevation of Mill #1 consists of three additions to the original building. To the north is an addition that extends north from the main block and dates to c.1920; two

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more additions extending from the middle of the elevation date to c.1946 and c.1955, the latter being a two-story dust collector room of unfenestrated red brick. The northern section of the east elevation contains a series of segmental arched window openings on the first and second stories that, for the most part, are infilled with brick. One opening contains a metal louvered vent and another appears to be filled with plywood. The roofline has the same overhanging eave with the same wide wood rafter tails as the rest of the east elevation of Mill #1.

The middle section of the east elevation of Mill #1 (belonging to the two-story dust collector room addition that dates to c.1955, according to Sanborn maps) is unfenestrated red brick. Two metal dust collector towers, from the same period, project from this section of Mill #1 and infill the area between the c.1955 dust collector room addition and the original Mill #1. The two towers are taller than the surrounding building and range between two and three stories. Both towers have gabled metal roofs with overhanging eaves.

The southernmost section of the east elevation of Mill #1, which dates to c.1946, is one story in height on a raised basement. This portion of the elevation is six bays wide on the first story; the rectangular openings are filled with new clad one-over-one double-hung windows. Several additional window openings on the first story are filled with brick, indicating alterations over the years; the entire basement level consists of infilled window openings. The roofline has an overhanging eave with wide wood rafter tails, similar to the cornice on the west elevation of Mill #1. A one-story brick bump-out dating to c.1960 is situated at the corner between the c.1946 addition and the c.1955 two-story dust collector addition immediately to the north. This projection contains a single-leaf flush steel entrance door with a corrugated metal hood on its south elevation.

The north elevation of Mill #1 consists of the c.1955 dust collector room addition and c.1920 and c.1946 additions to the north elevation of the 1904 portion of Mill #1. The dust collector room is unfenestrated brick with one single-leaf flush steel opening on the second floor at the east end. The brick on the second floor appears to have been applied at a later date. A one-story addition, also dating to c.1955, abuts the north elevation of the dust collector room and is five bays wide. Four of the five bays are filled with two-light awning style windows. The westernmost bay has a double-leaf entrance. Visible on the north elevation at the base of the metal towers is a one-story brick addition. This section contains a wide entrance opening with a sliding metal door. Another small addition to the west, also dating to c.1955, contains two double-leaf entrances with flush steel doors. The north elevation of the c. 1920s addition is three bays wide with a flush double-leaf steel door in its easternmost bay. The c. 1946 addition is also three bays wide with a flush single-leaf steel door in its easternmost bay. The roofline has a similar

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overhanging eave and wide wood rafter tails as that of the rest of the east elevation of Mill #1. All of the segmental arched window openings have been infilled with brick.

Most of the interior of Mill #1 consists of two levels. The upper level of the 1904 section has exposed brick walls, a wood floor, a peaked wood ceiling, and a single row of square wood posts running the length of the space. A heavy metal fire door leads from the northwest corner of this space to the bridge. Under the current ownership, this area has received some recent improvements, including refinished wood floors and the removal of flaking paint from the beamed ceilings and wood columns. In addition, asbestos stucco was removed from the brick of the west wall. The upper level of Mill #1 in the c. 1920 portion at the southeast end of the building is predominantly an open space, with wood floors and ceilings, narrow wooden columns spaced evenly on a grid, and brick walls (Photographs #8 and 9). Some of the horizontal and vertical wooden members have been reinforced with steel members. The c.1955 dust collector room on the upper level is an open space with concrete floors, block walls, a peaked wood ceiling, and evenly spaced wood columns on a grid. Also on the interior of Mill #1, new plumbing and electrical wiring were recently installed throughout. The lower, basement level, originally used for storage, is predominantly an open space with a non-original concrete floor, exposed brick walls, wood ceilings, and narrow wooden columns spaced evenly on a grid.

### Bridge Section

The bridge section dates to c.1920, with an addition to the south of the bridge that post-dates 1959, based on Sanborn maps (Exhibits #1 and 2 and Photographs #1 and 6). At the north elevation, the bridge is two stories in height, with two wide openings on the 1<sup>st</sup> story to allow for access under the bridge. The upper portion of the bridge is clad in sheet metal and is utilitarian in character. The interior of the bridge contains a wood floor and metal panel walls.

South of the bridge is a two-story section dating to c.1960 that is brick and metal panel construction on the north elevation and entirely brick on the south elevation. The south elevation has been recently modified by the current owner with a metal stage with a steel frame roof that is supported by steel columns. A flight of concrete steps leads to the stage at the southeast corner. Behind the stage, the interior of this two-story section is a single massive open space with concrete floors, brick walls, narrow metal columns and contemporary finishes, such as metal balconies and ladders.

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### Mill #2

Like Mill #1, Mill #2 has a complex chronology, but it is a much larger building. The original, south section of Mill #2 resembles Mill #1 in style and materials despite its later construction date of c.1920. Circa 1946, a large two-story unit was built at the north end of the original section, and in 1960 yet another major addition of a single story was built at the north end of the c. 1946 unit. From south to north, the site gradually declines so that ground level on the south end is a full floor height above the one-story, ground-level unit of 1960 at the north end. All three major units were enlarged with a series of smaller wings added to their west elevations in c. 1946, c. 1955, and 1960.

The east elevation of the c. 1920 unit of Mill #2, facing the new courtyard, is one story in height and has a series of regularly spaced segmental arched window openings recently filled with square-headed one-over-one aluminum-clad double-hung windows (Exhibits #1 and 2 and Photographs #1 and 3). The roofline has an overhanging eave with wide wood rafter tails, similar to the cornice on the east elevation of Mill #1. A new entrance installed c. 2006 is located at the tenth bay from the south end. This entrance opening contains a double-leaf contemporary steel door with a steel-framed hood. A raised platform of concrete and decorative concrete pavers with a pipe railing extends along the length of Mill #2 at the south end. Additionally, signage has been added in the form of banners attached using stanchions inserted into the mortar joints between the bricks. New metal awnings have been added to the entrance areas.

The south elevation of Mill #2 consists of an unfenestrated wall. The eastern half displays a few infilled rectangular openings and appears to date from the 1980s when the widening of Seaboard Street entailed removal of a shallow wedge of the south end of the 1920s section. The western half, with a simple stepped parapet, is a combination of two build dates: a small wedged portion at the east end of this half that dates from the c. 1920 original construction and corresponds to an infilled segmental arched window opening; the remaining five infilled openings have square heads and mark the south end of a c. 1946 addition at the southwest corner of the mill. The irregularly stepped roofline of the south elevation indicates the changes to the building over time.

The west elevation of the earliest unit of Mill #2 is one story on a basement that is almost fully exposed due to the slope of the site (Photographs #4 and 5). Nearly all of the original upper level window openings remain exposed and contain recently installed aluminum-clad double-hung windows. (The same windows occupy the upper level of the north elevation of the c. 1920 unit, also marked by a stepped parapet, which otherwise is obscured by the large c. 1946 expansion.) In the center of the lower level of the west elevation, there are three exposed windows that have been boarded over and one double-leaf flush metal door. At the southernmost end of the west elevation is a square

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one-story projection built c.1946 that contains two entrance openings: a garage door opening with a metal pull-down garage door and a single-leaf flush steel door. The next addition to the north, just north of the center of the c. 1920 section and at its basement level, is a small one-story addition with a shed roof that also dates to c.1946 and has a double-leaf opening with no doorway and a second double-leaf opening filled with a flush steel door. Overlapping and extending beyond this shed addition is a much larger one-story wing with a flat roof and very few openings that dates to c.1955. This addition also encompasses a shallow, flat-roofed projection from the upper main level of the c. 1920 mill, which recently has been altered with the insertion of two sets of short, fixed-pane triple windows. At the north end of the c. 1920 unit's west elevation is yet another c. 1955 one-story addition. This one is fairly small and she-roofed with three doors. The northern door contains a double-leaf flush metal door, while the others are filled with metal pull-down doors. This shed-roofed addition encompasses a two-story, flat-roofed square addition built c. 1946 at the north end of the c. 1920 mill.

The large 1946 expansion at the north end of the original section of Mill #2 also is two levels, but at a lower grade so that its upper, fully exposed story aligns with the basement level of the c. 1920 section. The 1946 section is fifteen bays long from north to south and twelve bays wide. Like the original section, it also features a basement level that originally was almost fully exposed on the west, north, and east elevations; now the lower level is exposed only its east side due to later additions. A long monitor roof, which runs the length of the addition and is barely visible from the exterior, distinguishes the 1946 section. The monitor roof has bands of one-light windows that run the length of the east and west sides, but there are no windows at either the north or south ends. Elsewhere, the window openings are filled with industrial style eight-light steel windows. There is one entrance opening approximately in the middle of the west elevation: a pair of new double-leaf steel doors with a four-light transom overhead. A concrete ramp leads up to the entrance. Flanking the ramp, one-story flat-roofed additions dating to c. 1955 obscure all of the lower level of the west elevation. Depending upon the grade, some of these are partially below ground. At the south end of this elevation, a small flat-roofed wing, fully above-ground, contains a double-leaf flush metal door beneath a metal canopy; otherwise, the additions are unfenestrated.

North of this addition is a third c.1955 addition, which contains a double-leaf flush metal door beneath a metal canopy. Neither the remainder of this addition, nor the c.1960 addition to the west, both of which are at basement level, has any openings. The west elevation of the large c.1960 addition at the north end of Mill #2, which is also at basement level, has a single-leaf metal door with a glazed panel in its southern bay, a garage-style pull-down door in its center bay and a single-leaf flush metal door in its northern bay. A canvas awning extends over all three bays.

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Finally, at the north end of Mill # 2 is the sizeable one-story wing of c. 1960 that spans the full width of the two earlier principal sections and measures approximately 125 feet by 1260 feet. This austere, flat-roofed section has very few openings. On the east elevation there are two double-leaf flush metal doors and an opening filled with a large metal vent. Projecting two full stories above the east elevation, there is a flat-roofed, rectangular-in-section metal tower with vents on three sides just below its roof. At the north end of the west elevation, there is a loading dock with two single-leaf flush steel doors (one with a window in its upper half) and a roll-down metal door, all under a canvas awning.

The interior of Mill #2 is divided into lower, middle and upper levels; the uppermost level is at grade along Seaboard Street while the lowest level is the northernmost section of the building, constructed c. 1960. The upper level of Mill #2, dating to c.1920, only extends along the south half of the footprint. The open spaces feature wood floors and wood ceilings and exposed brick walls in their original condition. This level has been successfully renovated by the present owner into new contemporary loft style offices with a central corridor to access the units. These offices expose and highlight the tall ceilings, and wooden beams, columns and floors. Typical finishes include refinished wood floors, exposed brick walls, wood columns and beamed ceilings. New plumbing and electrical wiring was installed throughout Mill #2 by the present owner as part of the renovations.

The middle level of Mill #2 (split into two areas: the north half constructed in c.1946 and the south half dating to c.1920) is an entirely open space with concrete floors, brick walls, wood ceilings, and parallel rows of wood and metal columns running the length of the spaces. The south half, the basement level of the original c.1920 portion of Mill #2, was modified over the years with the addition of the concrete floor and metal columns but the original wood-beamed ceiling remains intact. The north half is the upper portion of the large, c. 1946 section and features a notable monitor roof with glazed east and west elevations that allows maximum light into the otherwise cavernous space (Photograph #7). The lowest level is the basement of the c. 1946 section and all of the one-story section of c. 1960. Here, the floors are concrete and all finishes are contemporary.

### Integrity Assessment

In terms of integrity, the Fiber Mills have had many additions over the years, but each addition is identifiable, and other than the replacement of windows each section retains integrity and character pertaining to the construction date.

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In 2001, the Southern Asbestos Company Mills was certified as a Brownfields Property by the State of North Carolina. The property had been vacant for many years by that time, and the combination of the deteriorated buildings and the presence of hazardous materials rendered the complex no longer habitable or functional. When the current owner purchased the property in 2001, it was listed as a Federal Hazardous Waste Site and access to the interior of the site was prohibited without proper protective clothing and breathing apparatus. The current owner has made significant improvements to the site to mitigate and remove the contamination, to enhance the property's appearance, and to make the buildings habitable for a new use. Neither these recent changes nor the numerous additions to the original structures have seriously diminished the integrity of the complex or its ability to convey its industrial past.

In addition to the asbestos removal, the present owner has begun renovation work in both Mills #1 and #2. Mill #2 has been rehabilitated into contemporary loft-style offices that accent the significant historic interior elements of the mill building. Other work includes replacement of the roofs on Mill #1 and Mill #2 with new rubber membrane roofing, removal of the previously bricked-in window openings, and the installation of numerous new aluminum-clad windows. As there was no conclusive documentation on the type of windows that existed historically in the early twentieth-century sections, simple one-over-one double-hung, aluminum-clad windows were installed by the present owner.

When the current owner purchased the property in 2001, the entirety of the west elevation was covered in asbestos-containing stucco that was applied after the mill was converted to asbestos manufacturing. In order to comply with the requirements of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources necessary for occupying the building, as well as the requirements of the State of North Carolina Department of Justice, the owner removed the asbestos stucco from the brick. Because the removal damaged the surface of the brick, a widely accepted materials conservation masonry consolidant was applied to the brick in the location of the former asbestos stucco. With removal of the stucco, the building more closely approximates its original historic appearance. Additional steps to mitigate the negative effects of the stucco removal will be taken as needed to bring the project into compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

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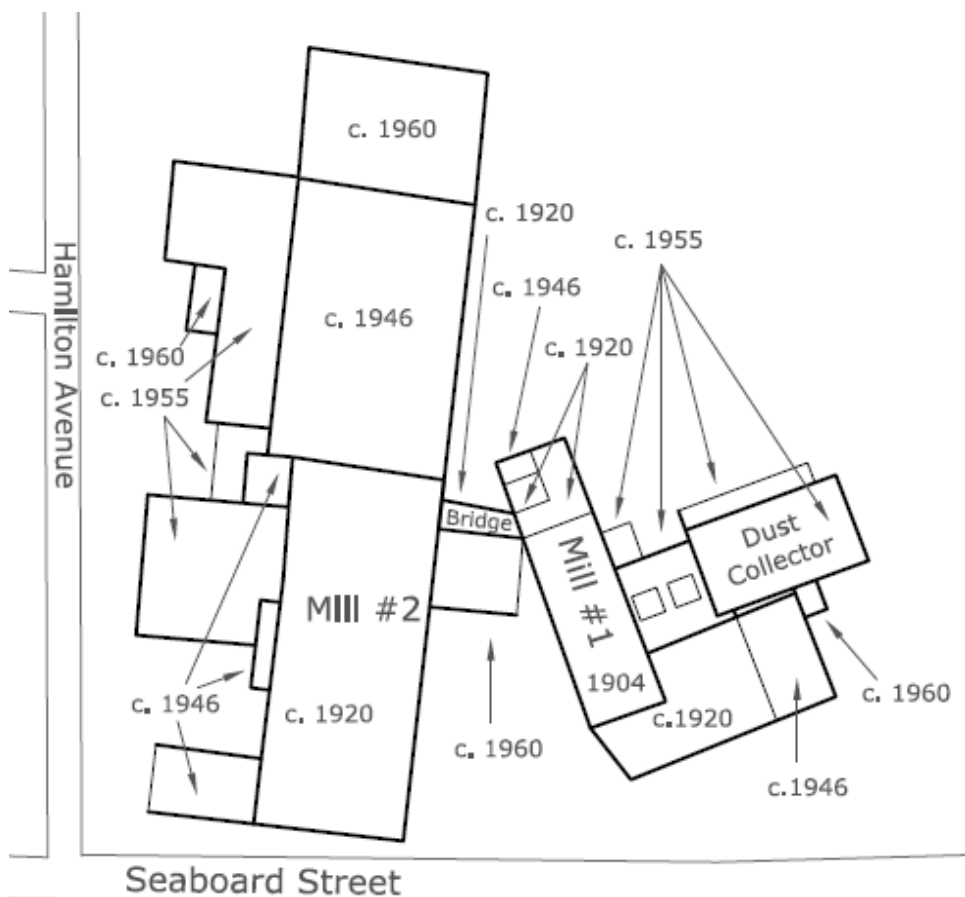
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Southern Asbestos Company Mills, 1000 Seaboard Street, Mecklenburg County, NC

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### Exhibit #1

Site Plan with Date Labels



Not to scale

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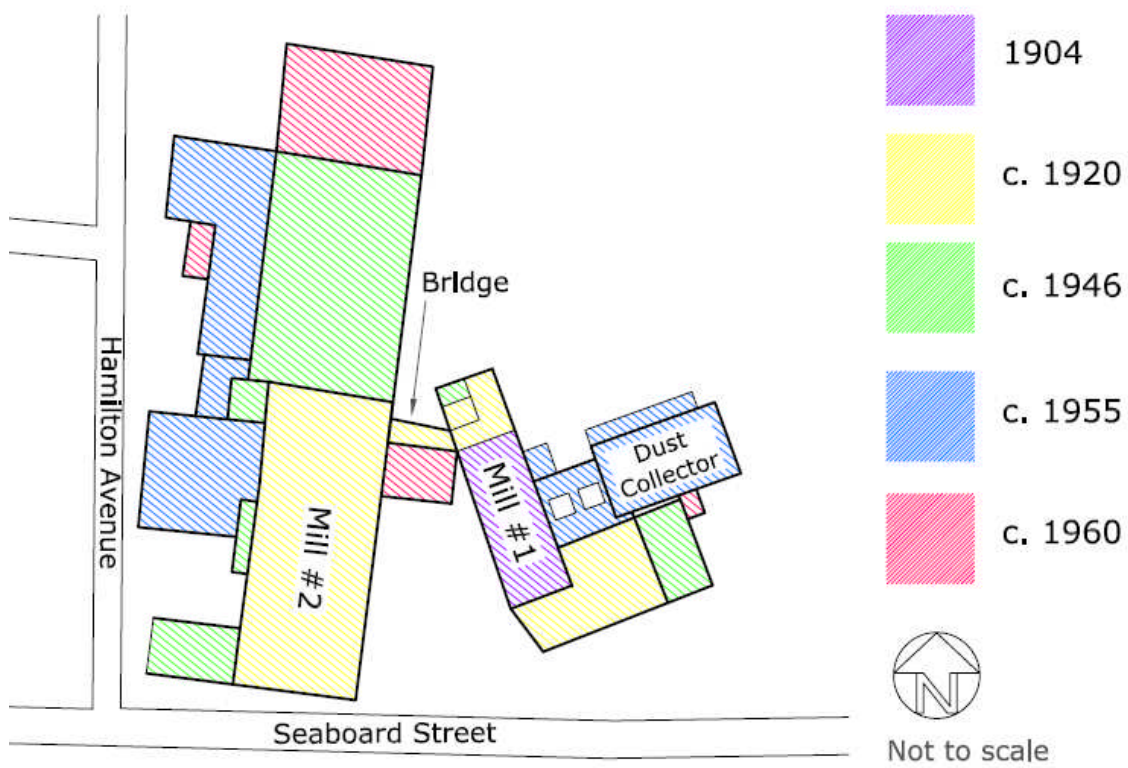
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Southern Asbestos Company Mills, 1000 Seaboard Street, Mecklenburg County, NC

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### Exhibit #2

Site Plan with Color Date Labels



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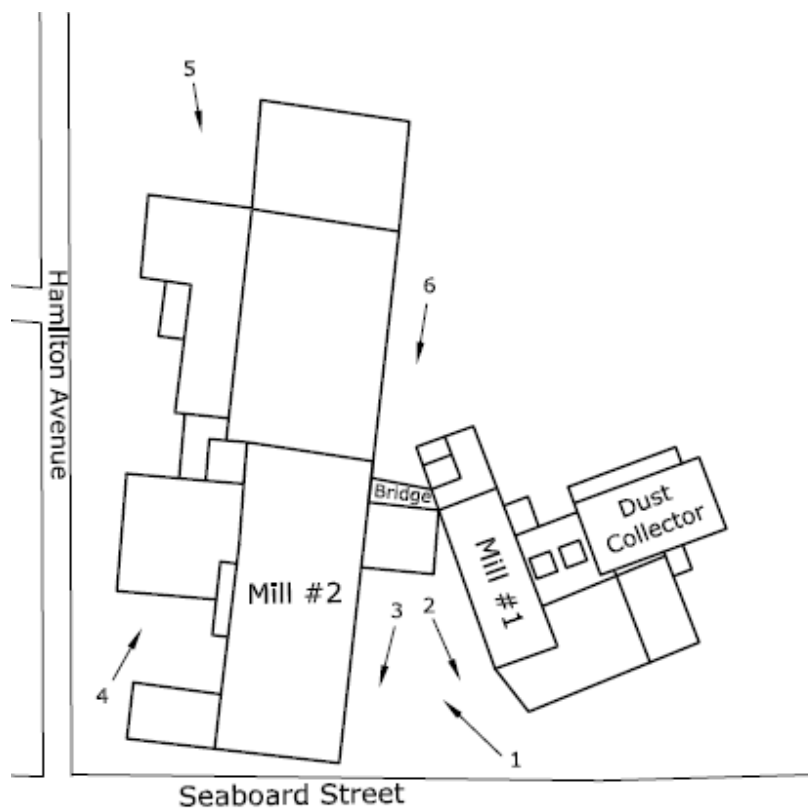
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Southern Asbestos Company Mills, 1000 Seaboard Street, Mecklenburg County, NC

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### Exhibit #3

Site Plan with Key to Exterior Photographs



Not to scale



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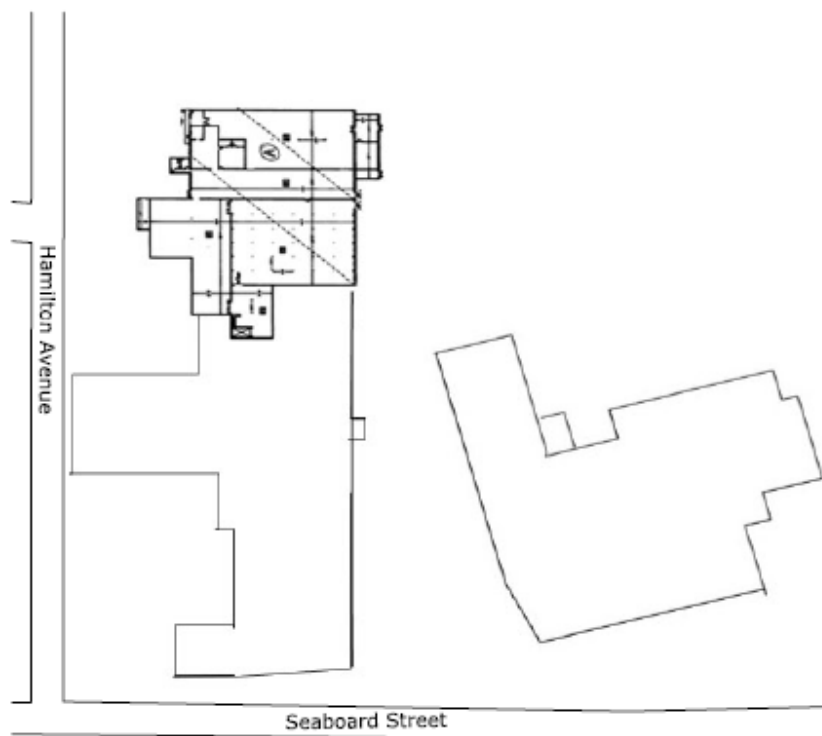
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Southern Asbestos Company Mills, 1000 Seaboard Street, Mecklenburg County, NC

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### Exhibit #4

Site Plan with Lower Level



Not to scale



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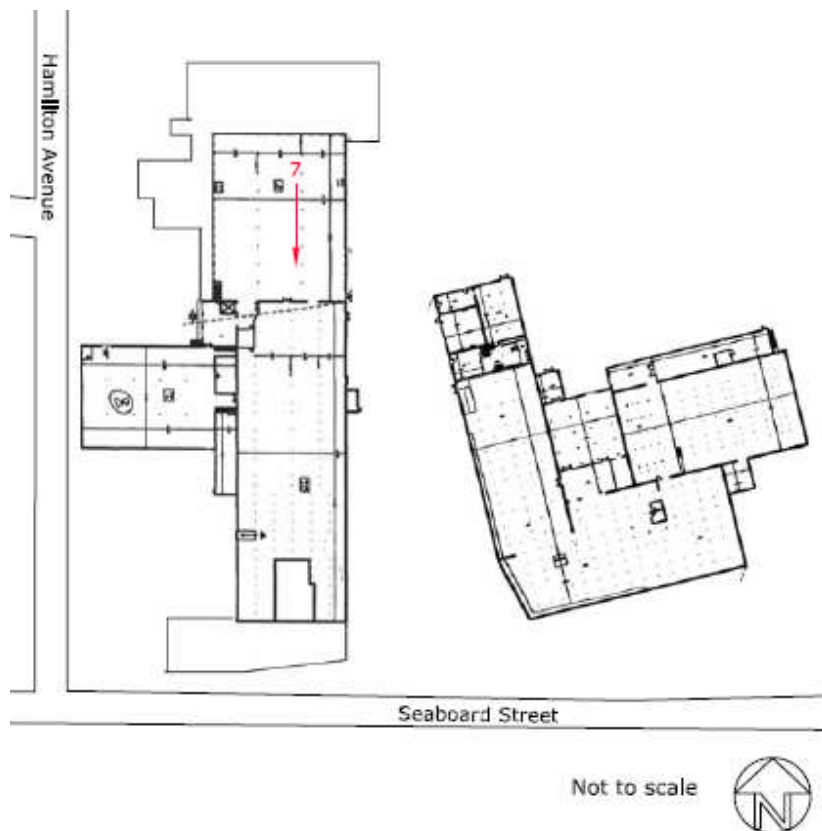
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Exhibit #5

Site Plan with Key to Middle Level Interior Photographs



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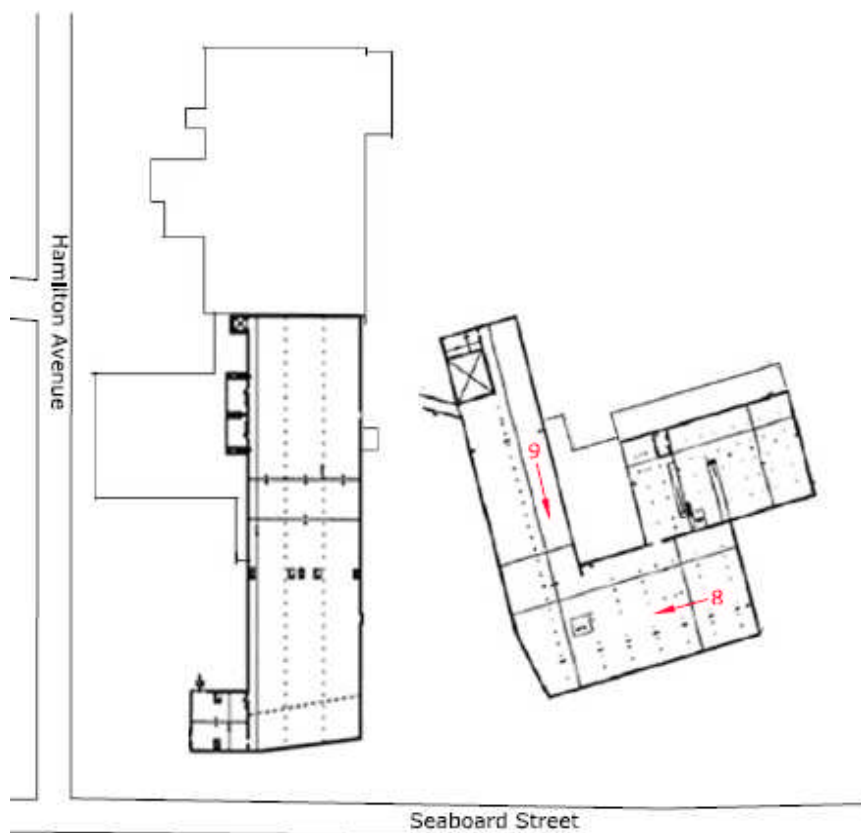
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Exhibit #6

Site Plan with Key to Upper Level Interior Photographs



Not to scale



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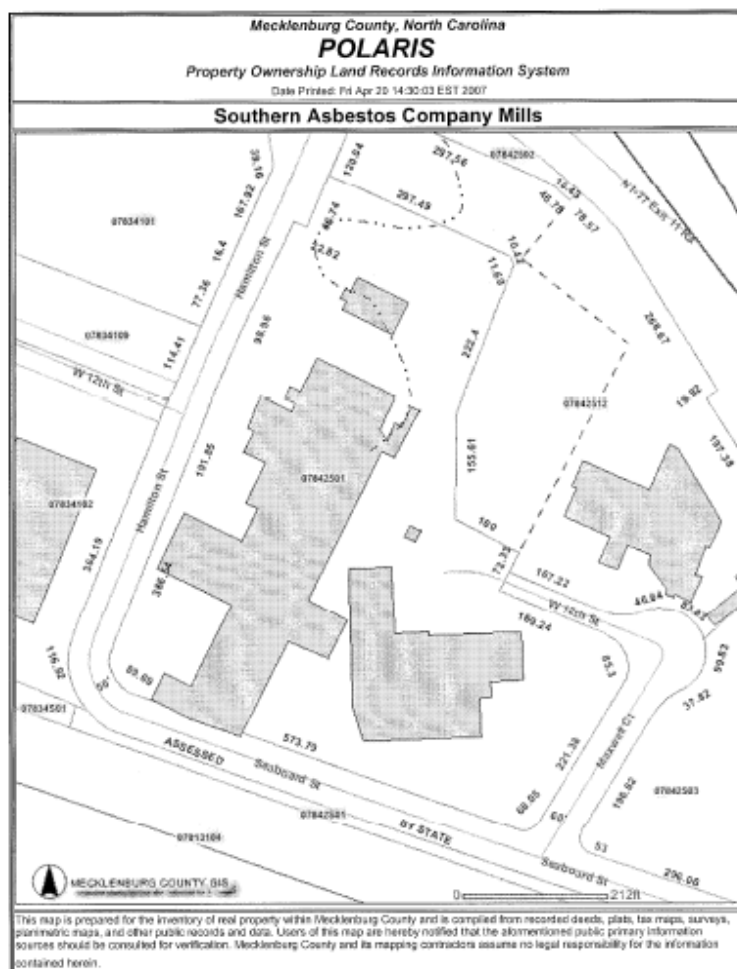
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Southern Asbestos Company Mills, 1000 Seaboard Street, Mecklenburg County, NC

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### Exhibit #7

Tax Map



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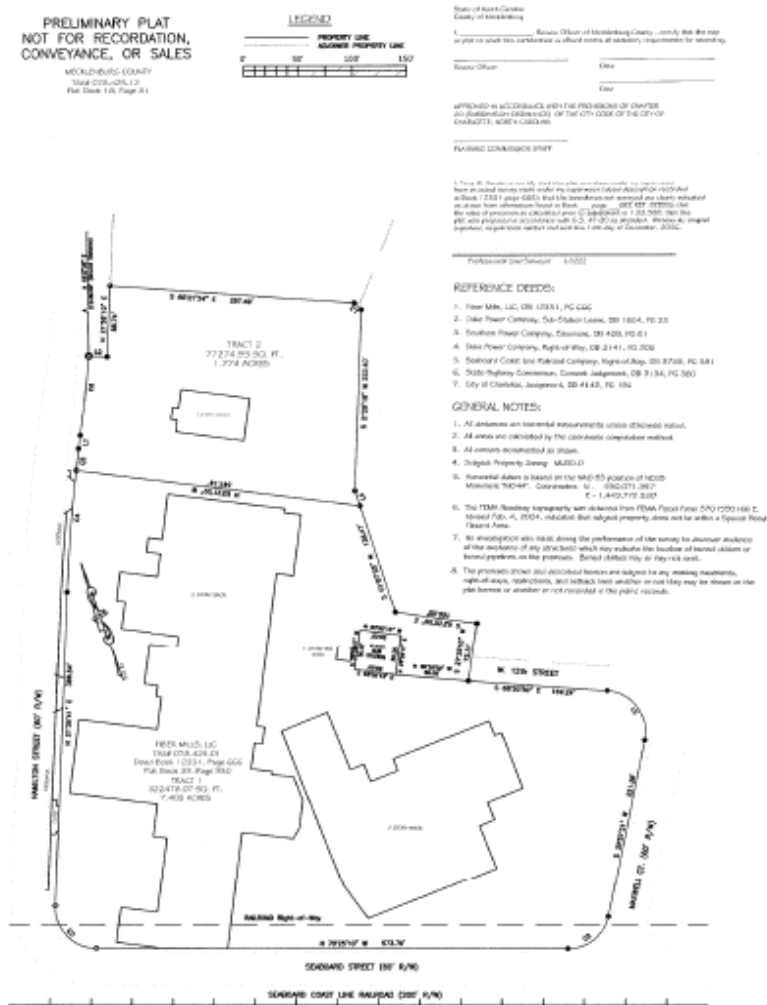
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Southern Asbestos Company Mills, 1000 Seaboard Street, Mecklenburg County, NC

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## Exhibit #8

### Deed Map



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Southern Asbestos Company Mills, 1000 Seaboard Street, Mecklenburg County, NC

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### **Summary Statement of Significance**

The Southern Asbestos Company Mills, located at 1000 Seaboard Street in Charlotte, NC, was built in stages from 1904 through the 1950s with minor additions in the 1960s. The factory began as a mill producing cotton bags and ties, but for most of its history it was used for the production of asbestos textile products by the Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company, a major supplier of fireproof cloth products. The Southern Asbestos Company Mills meets National Register Criterion A in the area of industry for its significant contribution to the industrial strength of Charlotte, NC, throughout the first half of the twentieth century. As an example of an early twentieth-century cotton mill that was easily converted into an asbestos textile mill, the complex is particularly important as the location of the Southern Asbestos Company, a regional leader in asbestos textiles terms of production, employee numbers, and numbers of spindles and looms. The period of significance begins in 1920 when the complex was first occupied by the Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company and continues until 1957. Although the plant continued to manufacture asbestos textiles until 1982, the period of significance ends in 1957 because the activities here within the last fifty years were not of special significance.

### **Background History: Early Textile Manufacturing Growth in Charlotte, NC**

Although the cotton mill industry in Mecklenburg County dates back to the early nineteenth century, it was not until 1880 that the first successful textile mill was established in Charlotte. R.M. and D.W. Oates built the Charlotte Cotton Mills at that time with seventy workers tending to 6,240 spindles.<sup>1</sup>

The railroad lines helped to shape Charlotte's growth as a major textile manufacturing hub, allowing for the distribution and delivery of raw and finished goods. By 1876 the rail lines that were in place before the Civil War radiated in six directions, stretching north to Richmond, VA, and beyond, south to Atlanta, GA, and both east and west to connect Charlotte to all of the southeastern states.<sup>2</sup> Consequently, Charlotte became the meeting point of the Southern and Seaboard rail systems. Southern Railways was formulated in

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Dan L. Morrill, "A Survey of Cotton Mills in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission" (July 1997). Accessed on the World Wide Web on March 27, 2007, [www.cmhpf.org/surveytextilesurvey.htm](http://www.cmhpf.org/surveytextilesurvey.htm).

<sup>2</sup> Mary Kratt and Mary Manning Boyer, *Remembering Charlotte: Postcards from a New South City, 1905-1950* (Chapel Hill, NC University of North Carolina Press, 2000), [http://uncpress.unc.edu/chapters/kratt\\_remembering.html](http://uncpress.unc.edu/chapters/kratt_remembering.html) (December 20, 2006).

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1894 and consolidated four of the six rail lines that passed through Charlotte; in 1900, Seaboard Air Line Railroad purchased the remaining two lines.<sup>3</sup>

Many cotton mills were constructed in the Charlotte area in the late nineteenth century, including the Alpha Cotton Mill, the Ada Cotton Mill, the Victor Cotton Mill (all in 1888-89), Highland Park Manufacturing Company No. 1 (1891), the Atherton Cotton Mills (1892), the Louise Cotton Mills (1897), and the Magnolia Cotton Mill (1899).<sup>4</sup> By 1900, Mecklenburg County had sixteen textile mills with a total of 94,392 spindles and 1,456 looms, which made it the second largest textile manufacturing county in the State after Gaston County.<sup>5</sup>

The rapid growth of the textile manufacturing industry of Charlotte was representative of the New South industrialization that occurred after Reconstruction. In Charlotte, the transition from agriculture to industry was championed by Daniel Augustus Tompkins (1852-1914), a pioneering industrialist and civic booster who played a "pivotal role in transforming Charlotte from a small market town into the leading center of textile production in the United States."<sup>6</sup> Tompkins also founded the D.A. Tompkins Company, and between 1884 and 1910 helped build over one hundred cotton mills, 250 cotton oil mills, and 150 electric light plants.<sup>7</sup>

Mill construction flourished in the Charlotte area during the first two decades of the early twentieth century. By 1902, there were three hundred mills in operation within 100 miles of Charlotte.<sup>8</sup> According to Charlotte City Directories, in 1900 Charlotte was home to fifty-seven industrial plants; by 1910, that number was up to 108. The directories do not specify exactly how many of these plants were specifically related to textile production. Many of Charlotte's historic industrial buildings, like the Southern Asbestos Company Mills, were erected in the neighborhood of Uptown Charlotte, as the heavy industry and warehouses relocated away from the city center during this period of unprecedented

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<sup>3</sup> Sarah A. Woodard and Sherry Joines Wyatt, *Industry, Transportation, and Education: The New South Development of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County* (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, 2001), <http://www.cmhpf.org/surveyindustrialsurvey.htm> (accessed on January 2, 2007).

<sup>4</sup> Dr. Dan L. Morrill, "A Survey of Cotton Mills in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission" (July 1997). Accessed on the World Wide Web on March 27, 2007, [www.cmhpf.org/surveytextilesurvey.htm](http://www.cmhpf.org/surveytextilesurvey.htm).

<sup>5</sup> Dan L. Morrill, *Mecklenburg Mill* (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, 1986), <http://www.cmhpf.org/surveys&rmeckmill.htm> (accessed on March 27, 2007).

<sup>6</sup> Frances P. Alexander, *Survey and Research Report on the D.A. Tompkins Company Machine Shop* (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, 2001), viewed on the World Wide Web on March 27, 2007, <http://www.cmhpf.org/surveys&rdatompkins.htm>.

<sup>7</sup> William S. Powell, ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, Volume 6, T-Z* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1996), 42.

<sup>8</sup> Woodard and Wyatt.

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industrial growth.<sup>9</sup> Mecklenburg County's manufacturing plants continued to multiply during the 1910s. By 1920, Mecklenburg County was home to 127 manufacturers, 111 of which were located in Charlotte.<sup>10</sup> Four years later, the number of manufacturing and industrial plants had increased to 200, the majority of which were textile-related. In 1920, the U.S. Census reported that in Mecklenburg County there were 6,242 people involved in general manufacturing with a production value of \$48,496,831.<sup>11</sup> In comparison, there were 4,344 people involved in agriculture with a production value of \$7,805,676.<sup>12</sup> Such a differential clearly illustrates the shift in significance from agriculture to manufacturing and the increased importance of textile mills throughout the county.<sup>13</sup>

### Southern Asbestos Company Mills: A Brief Building History

The Southern Asbestos Company Mills comprises two associated mill buildings joined by a narrow bridge structure. The complex has been expanded incrementally over the last hundred years, reflecting the growth of the asbestos industry.

In 1904, local manufacturer, developer, and businessman John B. Ross of John B. Ross & Company constructed the first building on the site as a textile mill to produce cotton bags and cotton ties on Seaboard Street in Charlotte.<sup>14</sup> This building (extant) was originally known as the Main Mill and later as Mill #1 of the Southern Asbestos Company Mills complex. As shown on the 1905 Sanborn map, this one-story brick building was sited at an angle to make use of its own railroad spur off of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad for the delivery of coal.<sup>15</sup> Other buildings on the site in 1904 included a small brick office building, two square frame storage sheds, and a free-standing water tower.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>9</sup> *Industrial Buildings in Charlotte's Uptown*, (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, no date), <http://www.cmhpf.org/uptownsurveyindustrial.htm> (accessed on January 2, 2007). .

<sup>10</sup> Thompson, 165.

<sup>11</sup> Thompson, 131.

<sup>12</sup> Thompson, 131.

<sup>13</sup> In 1926, Mecklenburg County had the 3<sup>rd</sup> most spindles after Gaston and Cabarrus Counties. Thompson, 136.

<sup>14</sup> John B. Ross lived in Uptown Charlotte and was involved in several industrial developments and local worker housing, many of which have been demolished. Ross led the family company, which was incorporated in 1903. Ross was also the vice-president of the Merchants & Farmers National Bank in Charlotte. This information was provided by Dr. Thomas Hanchett, staff historian of the Levine Museum of the New South, Charlotte, NC via email on December 22, 2006; *Walsh's Charlotte City Directory: 1905-1906*, Museum of the New South, Charlotte, NC.

<sup>15</sup> Sanborn Map of Charlotte, 1905. Located in the Carolina Room at the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

<sup>16</sup> One year later, in 1905, John B. Ross constructed a brick warehouse for his bag manufacturing factory (extant) a few blocks away from Mill #1 at 701 Seaboard Street near the corner of Seaboard and Johnson Streets. This brick building, known as the John B. Ross Warehouse, was identified in a survey of industrial properties as being eligible for the National Register by Woodward and Wyatt.

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Throughout the 1910s, the Main Mill (Mill #1) functioned as a cotton textile mill for John B. Ross & Company. In 1911, the complex included a small office and shed along the southern edge of the property abutting Seaboard Street, two tile sheds northwest of the Main Mill, a frame tile-making building at the north end of the property, and a water tank and a small shed directly west of the Main Mill. The 1911 Sanborn map notes the internal layout of the John B. Ross Bag & Tie Factory's Main Mill (Mill #1): carding at the northernmost end, spinning in the middle of the building and weaving at the south end, closest to Seaboard Street. The Main Mill (Mill #1) is the only building of the 1911 complex that is still standing.

Beginning in 1920, the Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company occupied the John B. Ross & Company complex and manufactured a complete line of asbestos yarns and textiles.<sup>17</sup> Soon after Southern Asbestos Manufacturing moved into the complex, new buildings were constructed on the site. The existing warehouses were torn down and two new warehouses known as Warehouses #1 and #2 were built.<sup>18</sup> A building permit from 1920 granted to John B. Ross for the Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company allowed for the construction of a fifty-foot by sixty-foot one-room brick building adjacent to Mill #1.<sup>19</sup> This small building was likely Warehouse #2; it was a square building with a gabled roof that stood to the west of Mill #1. Warehouse #1, another one-story brick building with a gabled roof, was attached to the southern wall of Warehouse #2. Both warehouses first appear on the 1924 drawing of the site from *Drummond's Pictorial Atlas*. The warehouses are extant on the 1953-1959 Sanborn map, but they had been demolished by 2001, when the current owner purchased the property.

By 1924, Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company had enlarged Mill #1 in three different places: the south end featured a large brick addition, which created an L-shaped footprint, the north end featured two new small brick buildings, and a dust shed and a dust collector were also added to the east elevation. Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company also constructed Mill #2 (extant) by 1924, a second one-story brick factory building that stands at an angle to the original mill.<sup>20</sup> Mill #2 was

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<sup>17</sup> Charlotte Mecklenburg Register of Deeds, bk. 332, 169. Although the land was not purchased outright until 1924, the Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company had had a presence on the property since January 1920. This was evidenced by the notation of the Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company in a building permit granted to John B. Ross in 1920.

<sup>18</sup> Albert Y. Drummond, *Drummond's Pictorial Atlas of North Carolina* (Charlotte, NC: Albert Y. Drummond, 1925), 40-41.

<sup>19</sup> Building permit issued January 20, 1920. This building, nearly square in size, is visible between Mill #1 and Mill #2 on the 1924 illustration of the Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company in Drummond's *Pictorial Atlas of Charlotte* and also appears as Warehouse No. 2 in the 1929 Sanborn Map and continues to stand through the late 1950s, although altered in appearance.

<sup>20</sup> Drummond, 40-41.

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constructed to match the style of Mill #1 with segmental arched window openings, a low-pitched gable roof, and wide overhanging cornice with exposed rafter tails. A small bridge section was also built to provide internal access between the two mills.

In early January 1928, the plant was legally conveyed from John B. Ross & Company to Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company.<sup>21</sup> This date corresponds with the year that the Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company was officially reorganized into the Southern Asbestos Company.<sup>22</sup> The following year, in April 1929, the Thermoid Company of Trenton, NJ, purchased a controlling interest in the Southern Asbestos Company, but the firm that occupied the buildings at 100 Seaboard Street continued to operate as the Southern Asbestos Company.<sup>23</sup>

According to the Sanborn maps, sometime between 1929 and c.1946, a one-story storage building was constructed to the north of the dust collector near Mill #1. The building appears on the 1953-1959 Sanborn map, and had been demolished by 2001, when the current owners purchased the property.

During the 1940s and early 1950s, prominent mill architect R. C. Biberstein (1859-1931) was retained by the Southern Asbestos Company to improve the interior of Mill #1 and possibly make additions to the existing plant that corresponds to those 1946 sections noted on Sanborn Maps.<sup>24</sup> According to a 1941 drawing by R. C. Biberstein, the 1904 portion of the first floor of Mill #1 was altered to accommodate fourteen carding machines.<sup>25</sup> This is in keeping with the 1929 Sanborn map, which described the area as a "Preparation Building" where carding would have taken place as one of the primary

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<sup>21</sup> Charlotte Mecklenburg Register of Deeds, bk. 686, 301.

<sup>22</sup> *Asbestos* (December 1927), 48; "Southern Asbestos Company." *New York Times*, December 12, 1927: 37.

<sup>23</sup> *Thermoid Company Annual Report* (1929), University of Alabama Bruno Business Library files. The Thermoid Company was founded in March 1929 as a holding company to acquire the Thermoid Rubber Company, founded in 1897, and the Stokes Asbestos Company, founded in 1920. *Asbestos* (March 1929), 6.

<sup>24</sup> *Biberstein, Bowles, Meacham & Reed Company Records, 1895-1960* University of North Carolina at Charlotte Manuscript Collection, 148, <http://library.uncc.edu/display/?dept=special&format=open&page=657> (accessed on March 27, 2007). After Biberstein's death in 1931, the firm was taken over by his son, Herman V. Biberstein (1893-1966) and still exists today under the name Biberstein, Bowles, Meacham and Reed. Dr. Dan L. Morrill, *R.C. Biberstein House* (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission, July, 5, 1985), <http://www.cmhpf.org/surveys&rbiberstein.htm> (accessed on March 27, 2007).

<sup>25</sup> Carding is a process completes the opening and cleaning of fibers. Under the teasing action of thousands of needle-pointed wires which form the working face of the "clothing" that covers the cylinders of the carding machine, the fibers are combed into a relatively parallel arrangement, forming a tenuous web. This web, or sliver as it is called, becomes roving when separated into ribbons, rubbed mechanically and condensed into untwisted strands. Jesse M. Weaver, *Asbestos Textiles and Textile Products* (Manheim, PA: Raybestos-Manhattan, Textile Division, c.1949): 25-26.

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stages of textile production. The 1941 drawing also illustrated two new fans: the Buffalo Forge 55 and the American Blower 70. These blowers led directly into the large dust collectors on the east side of the building. Biberstein's 1951 drawings for the same area in Mill #1 replaced the carding machines with blending feeders on the first floor and also situated blending and cotton pickers in the basement.<sup>26</sup>

According to the Sanborn maps, in 1946 Mill #1 also received a modern brick addition off of the east elevation of the c.1920 addition. A large metal shed containing machinery for a dust collector was also added to the east elevation of Mill #1 by c.1955. This addition replaced the dust shed and collector that is visible on the Drummond's 1924 *Pictorial Atlas of North Carolina*. Sanborn maps show that Mill #2 was significantly expanded in phases beginning in c.1946 with a large two-story brick addition off of the north end of the building and various drying and service rooms off the west elevation in c.1955.

During the 1960s, a number of additions were made to the complex by the owner at the time, H.K. Porter and Company Inc., the parent company of Southern Textile Corporation (formerly Southern Asbestos Company). These included the large grade-level addition constructed off of the north elevation of Mill #2. Additionally, the bridge section was enlarged on the south side with the construction of a tall two-story brick nondescript unfenestrated service area. A small one-story red brick electrical building, constructed in c.1960 directly north of Mill #1, was demolished in 2005.

Very few changes were made to the buildings during the 1980s and 1990s after Southern Textile Corporation sold the facility in 1983 to Southern Manufacturing Company, Inc., another asbestos textile manufacturer.

Various asbestos textile manufacturing companies utilized the mills at 1000 Seaboard Street until 2001, when the property was sold to Fiber Mills, LLC, a local developer. This same year, the property was recognized by the State of North Carolina as a Brownfields Project. Over the last few years, extensive asbestos decontamination and mitigation was performed on the inside and outside of the Southern Asbestos Company Mills to meet environmental requirements. The present owner has begun to rehabilitate the buildings for conversion to art galleries, music recording studios, and other arts and music related uses. The rehabilitation work completed to date includes the addition of a performance stage and awning attached to the section adjacent to the existing bridge;

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<sup>26</sup> Blending is the process of combining different types or grades of asbestos fibers to produce a desired effect. Small percentages of organic fibers, such as cotton or rayon, might also be added at this point to improve the spinning properties of the material. A feeder is the first step of the blending process, in which the raw materials are separated and weighed. A picker then takes the raw materials and begins to open and loosen them up. The presence of the cotton picker is notable because it demonstrates that cotton was consistently introduced into the asbestos textiles. Weaver, 25-26.

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landscaping of the courtyard space between Mills #1 and #2; new aluminum-clad windows; interior improvements to the upper level of Mill #1, such as refinishing floors, removing flaking paint from columns and ceilings, and general cleaning; and installation of contemporary offices into the upper level of Mill #2.

### **Criterion A: Significance in Industry**

During the period of significance, the Southern Asbestos Company Mills was the largest producer of asbestos textiles, yarn, thread and cord in Mecklenburg County and provided an important source of employment, income and industry to Charlotte and the surrounding area. Locally, the Southern Asbestos Company Mills is a significant contributor to the success of Charlotte's textile industry. While the Southern Asbestos Company Mills is unique in the area because of the affiliation with the asbestos industry, the inner workings of the plant essentially functioned in the same way and with very similar machinery as other textile mills in Charlotte. Consequently, the label of "textile mill" is entirely appropriate and the Southern Asbestos Company Mills can be evaluated within the context of other Charlotte textile mills, not only other asbestos mills.

### **Brief History of the Southern Asbestos Company**

The Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company was organized in 1919 in Charlotte, NC, and Lincolnton, NC, with a capital stock of \$300,000 and the intention of producing asbestos yarn and cloth using mineral deposits in western North Carolina.<sup>27</sup> The company was founded by Captain Charles Eben Childs, who served as the first president and treasurer. W.H. Truesdell, a former factory superintendent of the General Asbestos and Rubber Company of Charleston, SC, became the vice president and manager of the company and W.K. Medernach was the first superintendent and secretary.<sup>28</sup> These three men remained the management team for nearly a decade.<sup>29</sup> In 1920, they began operations in the complex that had originated as the John B. Ross Cotton Bag Factory at 1000 Seaboard Street in Charlotte.

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<sup>27</sup> *Asbestos* (July 1919), 3. While the Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company's primary plant was located in Charlotte, the company also owned land in Lincolnton, NC. This was partly because Lincolnton was a primary manufacturing center of North Carolina and partly because one of the Company's founders, Captain Charles Eben Childs, lived in Lincolnton.

<sup>28</sup> *Asbestos* (July 1919), 3. In 1920, the General Asbestos and Rubber Company was the largest manufacturer of asbestos textiles in the world. The company was founded in 1895. *Asbestos* (July 1920), 5; Charlotte Mecklenburg Register of Deeds, bk. 686, 301.

<sup>29</sup> Thompson, 151.

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In late January 1928, the Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company was officially incorporated and renamed Southern Asbestos Company.<sup>30</sup> This reorganization was made possible by the increase of the company's profits from \$110,000 in 1926 to \$164,000 in 1927 to \$354,000 in 1928.<sup>31</sup> By 1928, W.H. Truesdell had become the president of the firm.<sup>32</sup> This was also the year in which the factory was legally conveyed to the Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company, which occurred prior to the incorporation.

The following year, in April 1929, the Thermoid Company of Trenton, NJ, purchased a controlling interest in the Southern Asbestos Company.<sup>33</sup> With this purchase, the Thermoid Company, one of the largest manufacturers of brake linings for automobiles and industrial machinery in the United States, became the "second largest earning [asbestos] property in the country."<sup>34</sup> The Southern Asbestos Company was acquired to supply asbestos products internally to the Thermoid Company, which required a steady supply of asbestos yarn and cloth in the manufacture of its break linings and other products.<sup>35</sup> *The New York Times* reported in 1929 that the Southern Asbestos plant was "thoroughly modern and its location in Charlotte, NC, insures an adequate supply of low cost labor."<sup>36</sup> The Thermoid Company also manufactured such items as clutch rings, rubber belting and hose, universal joint discs, and asbestos packing. By 1935, the Thermoid Company also owned the Thermoid Textile Company and the Woven Steel Hose and Rubber Company and had operations throughout the United States and Canada. Thermoid's chief clients included the Ford Motor Company, the General Electric Company and the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company.<sup>37</sup>

In December 1, 1941, the Thermoid Company purchased all of the remaining manufacturing assets of the Southern Asbestos Company (which included the plant at 1000 Seaboard Street), and renamed their Charlotte operations "Thermoid Company –

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<sup>30</sup> *Asbestos* (December 1927), 48; Charlotte Mecklenburg Register of Deeds, bk. 686, 301; "Southern Asbestos Company."

<sup>31</sup> *Asbestos* (April 1928), 46; *Asbestos* (October 1928), 47; *Asbestos* (March 1929), 51.

<sup>32</sup> *Charlotte City Directory* (1929), no page. Clarence H. Carlough was the vice president and Walter K. Medernach was the secretary and treasurer.

<sup>33</sup> *Thermoid Company Annual Report* (1929), University of Alabama Bruno Business Library files. The Thermoid Company was founded in March 1929 as a holding company to acquire the Thermoid Rubber Company, founded in 1897, and the Stokes Asbestos Company, founded in 1920. *Asbestos* (March 1929), 6.

<sup>34</sup> *Asbestos* (April 1929), 58; *Asbestos* (March 1929), 6; "Southern Asbestos Company". "Buys Southern Asbestos." *New York Times* (March 20, 1929): 43; "Thermoid Company." *New York Times* (March 22, 1929): 40.

<sup>35</sup> "Buys Southern Asbestos."

<sup>36</sup> "Thermoid Company."

<sup>37</sup> "Thermoid Company."

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Southern Division.”<sup>38</sup> Southern Asbestos Company maintained its corporate identity within Thermoid and continued to produce the woven asbestos yarn, cord and asbestos cloth under the “Flameguard” trade name at the facility.<sup>39</sup>

In November 1958, the Thermoid Company merged with the H.K. Porter Company, Inc. of Pittsburgh, PA. As a result, Southern Asbestos Company came under the umbrella of the H.K. Porter Company, Inc. and was renamed the Southern Textile Company.<sup>40</sup> Through the 1960s and 1970s, the Southern Textile Company manufactured various types of asbestos products that were used in shipyards and in the ship-building industry across the country and around the world.

When H.K. Porter Company, Inc. filed for bankruptcy in August 1982, the Southern Textile Company (formerly Southern Asbestos Company) officially went out of business and the company was sold. The facility at 1000 Seaboard Street continued to be used by a succession of manufacturers to produce asbestos textiles for a variety of textile companies until 2000 when operations ceased and the building was sold to a local developer.<sup>41</sup>

### Asbestos: A Brief History

The discovery of the uses of asbestos, a naturally-occurring mineral, is at least 5,000 years old, dating back to the ancient civilizations in Greece and elsewhere in the Mediterranean area. The name asbestos is derived from the Greek language: *a-* meaning “not” and *sbestos*, meaning “extinguishable.” It was discovered by these civilizations that asbestos could be mined, crushed, separated, and bundled into fibers that could be woven like cloth to produce a textile that was resistant to heat.<sup>42</sup> Of the three types of asbestos that were mined – anthophyllite, amphibole, and serpentine – only one variety of serpentine was particularly good for manufacturing textiles because of its great flexibility and strength.

<sup>38</sup> Although the Thermoid Company originally purchased only 51 percent of the Southern Asbestos Company in 1929, it had acquired 96 percent of the stock by 1933. *Asbestos* (September 1929), 55; *Asbestos* (April 1933), 34; Charlotte Mecklenburg Register of Deeds, bk. 1061, 97.

<sup>39</sup> By this time, the president is listed as George S. Fabel of Trenton, NJ and Charlotte, NC. Russell H. Temple of Trenton, NJ was vice president Cecile R. Trembath of Charlotte, NC was the secretary and Robert P. Major was the treasurer and superintendent. *Charlotte City Directory* (1941), no page.

<sup>40</sup> In 1958, the H.K. Porter Company, Inc. operated forty-nine plants in the United States, Canada and Mexico and manufactured industrial rubber products, forged steel fittings and electrical devices.

<sup>41</sup> Letter from the American Academy of Actuaries to Senator Bill Frist, March 24, 2004, [http://www.actuary.org/pdf/casualty/asbestos\\_032404.pdf](http://www.actuary.org/pdf/casualty/asbestos_032404.pdf) (accessed on January 23, 2007).

<sup>42</sup> Bradley Van Gosen, *Reported Asbestos Mines, Historic Asbestos Prospects, and Natural Asbestos Occurrences in the Eastern United States* (USGS, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, U.S. Geologic Survey, 2006), <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2005/1189/pdf/Plate.pdf> (accessed on January 10, 2007).

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The modern asbestos industry began in early nineteenth century in Italy with the production of fabrics, tablecloths and napkins, clothing, book covers, and building materials.<sup>43</sup> By the mid-nineteenth century, asbestos was used for insulation of machinery, pipes, and engines.

In 1861 asbestos deposits were discovered in the United States.<sup>44</sup> The first large-scale production of asbestos in the eastern U.S began in 1894 at the Sall Mountain area of Georgia.<sup>45</sup> Continuing through the end of the twentieth century, asbestos in the eastern United States was commercially mined in Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Of these states, North Carolina had the most commercial asbestos mines, with 27 mines concentrated largely in the southwestern corner of the state.<sup>46</sup> The competitors were Georgia, with 17 mines; Pennsylvania: 4; Maryland: 4; Vermont: 3; Massachusetts: 2; Virginia: 2; and Connecticut: 1.<sup>47</sup>

The fire retardant and insulating qualities of asbestos caused it to be incorporated into many new products. In 1906, the first asbestos brake linings were manufactured in the United States.<sup>48</sup> From the 1920s through the 1950s, the construction of warships, automobiles, homes and buildings utilized asbestos products, including insulation materials, floor and ceiling tiles, siding, and cement pipes. Asbestos yarns, wires, and cords, such as those produced at the Southern Asbestos Company Mills, were primarily used in the electrical industry because they were extremely durable and could withstand unusually high temperatures.

In the 1920s, for the first time a prevalence of severe lung disorders and deaths among asbestos workers was linked with the exposure to asbestos dust for the first time. Two distinct diseases were diagnosed in association with breathing in asbestos fibers: asbestosis, a term for the scarring of the lungs by embedded asbestos fibers; and mesothelioma, a cancer of the lung and chest wall. The first documentation of a case of asbestosis occurred in a medical journal of 1924. In the 1930s, when the public health

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<sup>43</sup> Robert L. Virta, *Mineral Commodity Profiles—Asbestos* (USGS Circular 1255-KK, 2005), [http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/2005/1255/kk/Circ\\_1255KK.pdf](http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/2005/1255/kk/Circ_1255KK.pdf) (accessed on January 29, 2007).

<sup>44</sup> *Asbestos* (September 1927), 8. In 1879, asbestos was first commercially mined in North America in Thetford, in the Quebec province. Before the Canadian mine opened, asbestos mines were located all over the world, including throughout Europe and in South Africa, former Soviet Union, Australia and China. Significant asbestos deposits can be found in the United States, Canada, South Africa and the former Soviet Union.

<sup>45</sup> Gosen.

<sup>46</sup> Gosen.

<sup>47</sup> Gosen.

<sup>48</sup> *Mesothelioma, All about Malignant Mesothelioma*, <http://www.allaboutmalignantmesothelioma.com/asbestos-2-history.htm> (accessed on December 11, 2006).

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service came to do surveys in North Carolina, they were sternly admonished to “not stir up any kind of damage suits by telling the workers that they were examining how dangerous asbestos was.”<sup>49</sup> Although the risks of asbestos were evident as early as the 1920 and 1930s, it was not until the 1960s and 1970s that such concerns could no longer be ignored. Warning labels were not typically put on asbestos products by manufacturers until the 1960s, after the mortality studies were published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 1964. Within months of those studies, some of the companies started to put mild warning labels on their cartons of insulation products.<sup>50</sup> With the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in 1971, standards for the production of asbestos materials were first applied to the industry. Regulation of asbestos manufacturing and use continues today.

These increased health concerns instigated the worldwide decline in asbestos production and consumption by thirty-one percent from 1980 to 2000.<sup>51</sup> Simultaneously, the number of asbestos litigations and lawsuits increased. Between 1980 and 2002, over 500,000 individuals in the United States filed over ten million claims related to asbestos exposure. Consequently, over seventy-five firms were forced to file for bankruptcy, with over \$275 billion in damages.<sup>52</sup>

Although the asbestos materials production is no longer a major industry in the United States and the last United States asbestos mine closed in California in 2002, asbestos still remains a concern. Certain asbestos products, such as brake linings, are still used on a limited basis, and as of 1997 nearly 50,000 people in the United States die from asbestos exposure each year.<sup>53</sup> In other countries, however, asbestos is still mined and manufactured.

### The Process of Manufacturing Asbestos Textile Products

Below is a brief description of the manufacturing process of asbestos textile products that occurred in the Southern Asbestos Company Mills.

Raw asbestos was initially received by the textile factory in its crudest form. Upon arrival, the asbestos was inspected for quality and the crude asbestos fiber was then partially

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<sup>49</sup> Barry Castleman, “History of the Deadly Dust,” *Multinational Monitor* (September 2000) <http://www.allbusiness.com/specialty-businesses/641307-6.html> (accessed on December 11, 2006).

<sup>50</sup> Castleman.

<sup>51</sup> Robert L. Virta, *Worldwide Asbestos Supply and Consumption Trends from 1900 to 2000*. U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, n.d.

<sup>52</sup> Michelle J. White, *Why the Asbestos Genie Won't Stay in the Bankruptcy Bottle* (February 2002). <http://weber.ucd.edu/~miwhite>

<sup>53</sup> Gareth Morgan, *Images of Organization* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc., 1997), 317.

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opened by a pan crusher or chaser mill, which passed the fibers beneath giant steel or stone wheels. Picking machines then separated these partially crushed fibers from impurities and other residual debris. All of the fibers of different types and grades were then combined to achieve a greater uniformity.<sup>54</sup>

These combined fibers were then often mixed with organic fibers, such as cotton or rayon, which acted as carriers or supporting agents to improve spinning properties and increase serviceability. One product of the mixing process was non-woven felt, which was produced when the fibers were matted, condensed, and pressed in either random or parallel orientation. Special binders were sometimes added to increase the strength and alter the texture of the product.<sup>55</sup>

After the mixing process, the next step was the carding process, which finished the cleaning and opening of the asbestos fibers. The carding machine arranged the fibers into a relatively parallel arrangement, which was called a sliver. The sliver became "roving" – the principle product of the process – when it was "separated into ribbons, rubbed mechanically and condensed into untwisted strands."<sup>56</sup> The other three possible products of the carding process were raw carded fibers, non-woven felt, as mentioned above, and lap, which was a continuous, compressed sheet that was rolled under pressure into a cylindrical package.<sup>57</sup>

The roving was then twisted or spun. Twisting occurred literally when the asbestos roving was twisted to increase tensile strength and facilitate further processing; this twisted roving was called "wick," which can then either be twisted to produce twisted rope or braided to produce braided rope. If the roving was spun, it became a single asbestos yarn. This yarn was then: braided into braided rope, cord or tubing; twisted with light wires or metallic yarns to produce plied yarns; twisted with itself to produce twisted cord; coated with gums, starches, waxes, or resins; or woven on a loom into asbestos tape or cloth.<sup>58</sup>

The Southern Asbestos Company made a wide variety of asbestos textiles and yarn products, as illustrated in a company-published catalogue entitled "Asbestos Textile

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<sup>54</sup> Weaver, 25-26.

<sup>55</sup> Weaver, 25-26.

<sup>56</sup> Weaver, 25-26.

<sup>57</sup> Celanese Acetate, LLC, *Complete Textile Glossary* (New York: Celanese Acetate, 2001).

[http://209.85.165.104/search?q=cache:47lwEHugcYkJ:www.celaneseacetate.com/print/textile\\_glossary\\_filement\\_acetate.pdf+%22lap%22+definition+%22textile+product%22&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=4&gl=us](http://209.85.165.104/search?q=cache:47lwEHugcYkJ:www.celaneseacetate.com/print/textile_glossary_filement_acetate.pdf+%22lap%22+definition+%22textile+product%22&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=4&gl=us) (accessed on March 27, 2007).

<sup>58</sup> Weaver, 27-28.

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Products" dating to c.1950.<sup>59</sup> The Southern Asbestos Company catalogue offered thirteen primary asbestos textiles to its customers: carded asbestos fiber, combed asbestos fiber, asbestos roving, asbestos yarn, asbestos cord, asbestos thread, asbestos wick, asbestos rope, asbestos wire wiping cord and wick, asbestos cloth, asbestos dust bags, asbestos tape, oil burner asbestos wicking, and asbestos braided and woven tubing. A summary definition of all of the products made by Southern Asbestos Company in c.1950 is in Exhibit # 9.

### Comparisons Within the Local Textile Industry

During the 1920s, Southern Asbestos Company Mills made an important contribution to the prosperity of Charlotte's textile industry. Typically a mill's number of spindles and looms indicates its relative importance but this is not a valid mean of comparison for the Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company as asbestos textile production required far fewer spindles than for the manufacture of other textiles. Other areas such as employee number and stock value can be used to illustrate relative importance. In 1926, the company was on par with, if not slightly ahead of, other prominent textile mills in Charlotte in terms of plant value and employee number. According to a 1926 survey that profiled the sixty-three most important companies in every industry in Charlotte, the Southern Asbestos Company plant was valued at \$500,000, employed a total of 210 workers and produced asbestos fabrics, yarns, "brake band linings, packing, electrical purposes, gloves, mittens and other safety apparel."<sup>60</sup> The Leaksville Woolen Mills in Charlotte was valued at \$550,000, and had 190 employees.<sup>61</sup> In 1926, the Johnston Manufacturing Company Mills, a cotton yarn mill located at 3300 North Davidson Street, Charlotte, NC employed 30 workers and had a plant valued at \$392,116.<sup>62</sup> One of the largest textile mills in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, the Highland Park Manufacturing Company (manufacturers of staple and fancy gingham, rayons and shirtings<sup>63</sup>), owned three plants with a combined value at \$2 million.<sup>64</sup>

Statistics from the 1930s and 1940s indicate that Southern Asbestos Company was a somewhat smaller operation in terms of capital stock value when compared to other big textile mills in Charlotte. According to *Clark's Directory of Southern Textile Mills* in 1940, Southern Asbestos Company/Thermoid Southern Division's capital stock was valued at \$345,828; in comparison, Johnston Manufacturing Company's stock was valued at

<sup>59</sup> Southern Asbestos Company, *Asbestos Textile Products* (Charlotte, NC: Southern Asbestos Company, no date).

<sup>60</sup> Thompson, 151.

<sup>61</sup> Thompson, 147-148.

<sup>62</sup> Thompson, 142.

<sup>63</sup> *Clark's Directory of Southern Textile Mills* (Charlotte, NC: Clark Publishing Company, 1940), 89.

<sup>64</sup> Thompson, 147.

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\$730,000.<sup>65</sup> Highland Park Manufacturing Company Plants No. 1 and 3 had a combined capital stock of \$704,400. In terms of employee number, Southern Asbestos Company's workforce was smaller than other big textile mills in Charlotte, but still sizable. According to Powell Majors, the secretary of the Southern Asbestos Company between 1932 and 1945, the company maintained a work force of approximately 175 to 200 people during his time there.<sup>66</sup> This number apparently was higher during some of those years, as the 1938 *Industrial Directory of North Carolina* reported that the Southern Asbestos Company had 200 to 250 employees.<sup>67</sup> The 1938 directory also reports that Johnston Manufacturing Company was about the same size with between 200 and 250 workers; Leaksville Woolen Mills was slightly larger with between 300 and 350 workers; and Highland Park Manufacturing Company had between 700 and 800 workers employed in their two Charlotte plants in 1938.<sup>68</sup>

During the 1950s, the facility at 1000 Seaboard Street employed a sizable number of workers and was on par with other successful textile mills in Charlotte. According to the *North Carolina Almanac and State Industrial Guide*, in 1954-55 the Southern Asbestos Company was classified as a 1 and the Thermoid Company Southern Division was a 4, which translated to up to 50 workers for Southern Asbestos Company and between 250 and 500 workers for Thermoid.<sup>69</sup> The Johnston Mills and the Leaksville Woolen Mills were also classified as a 4, with 251 to 500 employees in 1954-55.<sup>70</sup> Only the Highland Park Manufacturing Company, representing two plants, had a larger classification of a 6, with 1,000 to 1,500 workers.<sup>71</sup>

### Comparisons Within the Regional Textile Industry

The success of the asbestos products made at the Southern Asbestos Company Mills during the period of significance caused the company to become a regional leader in the asbestos textile industry. It was due to this success that asbestos textiles were recognized as one of Charlotte's chief outputs.<sup>72</sup> The Southern Asbestos Company was cited generally in many period sources. For example, *Drummond's Pictorial Atlas* noted in 1924 that the Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company was recognized as one of the two largest asbestos manufacturing plants in the South. (The other company was the

<sup>65</sup> *Clark's Directory of Southern Textile Mills*, 88-89.

<sup>66</sup> R. Powell Majors, interview with Barbara Lawrence, 2005.

<sup>67</sup> Division of Commerce and Industry, *Industrial Directory and Reference Book of the State of North Carolina* (Durham, NC: Christian Printing Company, 1938), 226.

<sup>68</sup> *Industrial Directory and Reference Book of the State of North Carolina*, 183, 216, 193.

<sup>69</sup> Mrs. J.C.B. Ehringhouse and Mrs. Carl Goerch, *North Carolina Almanac and State Industrial Guide, 1954-1955* (Raleigh, NC: Almanac Publishing Company, 1956) 273.

<sup>70</sup> Ehringhouse and Goerch, 255.

<sup>71</sup> Ehringhouse and Goerch, 253.

<sup>72</sup> Thompson, 165.

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General Asbestos and Rubber Company in Charleston, SC.<sup>73</sup>) By 1929 Southern Asbestos Company was proclaimed by *The New York Times* as one of the state's chief producers of woven asbestos fiber cloth and yarn used in the electrical industry.<sup>74</sup> In 1952, Southern Asbestos Company received attention by the U.S. Bureau of Mines when it was listed with eleven other national manufacturers as "one of the larger manufacturers of asbestos products" to buy various grades of Arizona asbestos fibers.<sup>75</sup>

Southern Asbestos Company's chief regional competitors in the asbestos textile industry during the period of significance included: Carolina Asbestos Company, asbestos textile manufacturers, located at 201 Depot Street in Davidson, NC; Southern Friction Materials Company on Chemway Road in Charlotte, NC, makers of woven asbestos brake linings; Union Asbestos & Rubber Company of Marshville, Union County, NC and Charlotte, NC; and Fiber Manufacturing Company (later known as the Kubar Manufacturing Company), manufacturers of electrical insulation and asbestos tape, located in Newton, NC.

Data from industrial directories establish that Southern Asbestos Company was the asbestos textile manufacturer with the most workers during the 1930s. According to the 1938 *Industrial Directory and Reference Book of the State of North Carolina*, the Southern Asbestos Company was in the lead with 200 to 250 employees. The competitors' companies were much smaller: Carolina Asbestos Company employed 125 to 150 workers;<sup>76</sup> Southern Friction Materials Company had only 50 workers;<sup>77</sup> and Fiber Manufacturing Company supported even less, with 15 to 20 workers.<sup>78</sup>

In terms of spindles and looms, Southern Asbestos Company maintained the most of the three top asbestos textile firms in the region. As listed in the 1940 edition of *Clark's Directory of Southern Textile Mills*, Southern Asbestos Company owned 3,288 spindles and 32 looms, a great improvement from the company's holdings in 1926 when Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company had 2,000 spindles, 20 looms and 12 carding machines.<sup>79</sup> That same year, Carolina Asbestos Company had 1,000 spindles and 8 looms.<sup>80</sup> Southern Friction Materials Company owned no spindles and 5 looms.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> *Asbestos* (July 1924), 56.

<sup>74</sup> "85 Shares Thermoid Company," *New York Times* (March, 22 1929): 40.

<sup>75</sup> Two other North Carolina companies were recognized: Carolina Asbestos Company of Davidson and Union Asbestos & Rubber Company of Marshville. L.A. Stewart, *Chrysotile-Asbestos Deposits of Arizona: Bureau of Mines Information Circular 7706* (United States Department of the Interior, January 1955), [http://www.admmr.state.az.us/DigitalLibrary/USBM\\_IC/USBMIC7706ChrysotileAsbestosDepositsOfArizona.pdf](http://www.admmr.state.az.us/DigitalLibrary/USBM_IC/USBMIC7706ChrysotileAsbestosDepositsOfArizona.pdf) (accessed on January 29, 2007).

<sup>76</sup> *Industrial Directory and Reference Book of the State of North Carolina*, 225.

<sup>77</sup> *Industrial Directory and Reference Book of the State of North Carolina*, 226.

<sup>78</sup> *Industrial Directory and Reference Book of the State of North Carolina*, 225.

<sup>79</sup> *Clark's Directory of Southern Textile Mills*, 90; Thompson, 151.

<sup>80</sup> *Clark's Directory of Southern Textile Mills*, 96.

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Southern Asbestos Company/Thermoid Company Southern Division maintained 3,288 spindles and 23 looms, according to the 1949 *Clark's Directory*.<sup>82</sup> In comparison, Southern Friction Materials Company had no spindles and 4 looms in 1949. Union Asbestos & Rubber Company's plant in Davidson had 1,000 spindles and 8 looms; Union's plant in Marshville had 364 spindles and 20 looms.

A year later, in 1950, Southern Asbestos Company/Thermoid Company Southern Division plant still had 3,288 spindles, but there was an increase in the number of looms from 23 to 42 as noted in *Clark's Directory*.<sup>83</sup> The competitor companies maintained the same number of spindles and looms.

Nearly a decade later, in 1959, Southern Asbestos Company (noted as a subsidiary of H.K. Porter Company) had the same number of spindles—3,288—but no looms were noted, suggesting a change in product line.<sup>84</sup> The competitors still lagged behind: Carolina Asbestos Company had 1,600 spindles and 9 looms<sup>85</sup> and Union Asbestos & Rubber Company's plant in Marshville had 1,144 spindles and 28 looms.<sup>86</sup>

In summary, Southern Asbestos Company consistently led the asbestos textile industry in the region in terms of employee number, spindles and looms during the period of significance and therefore contributed significantly to the industrial strength of the region for more than sixty years.

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<sup>81</sup> *Clark's Directory of Southern Textile Mills*, 90.

<sup>82</sup> *Clark's Directory of Southern Textile Mills*, 102.

<sup>83</sup> *Clark's Directory of Southern Textile Mills*, 110.

<sup>84</sup> *Clark's Directory of Southern Textile Mills*, 127.

<sup>85</sup> *Clark's Directory of Southern Textile Mills*, 127.

<sup>86</sup> *Clark's Directory of Southern Textile Mills*, 211.

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Exhibit #9: Products Produced by the Southern Asbestos Company in c. 1950

Asbestos Item	Process of manufacturing	Use
Carded asbestos fiber	Made from crude asbestos that has been divided as finely as possible by chasing, screening, combing and carding processes	Used to clarify liquids, such as wine, beer, oil and chemical, and also for gas heater logs and safe "snow" for theatrical and holiday decorations
Combed asbestos fiber	Asbestos fibers were mechanically treated to all go in the same direction. It is less fine the carded asbestos fiber.	Used for wire wiping pads and some chemical filtering processes
Plain asbestos roving	A single strand of carded, untwisted asbestos fiber is blended with cotton or another fiber, such as rayon, and condensed to a single strand without twisting	Used by the electrical wire industry as a part of the insulation covering for heat cords, electrical cables and electrical heating elements.
Reinforced asbestos roving	Plain roving but with an additional end of yarn in the center of the strand. The yarn is usually cotton but it can be of any material	Used by the electrical wire industry as a part of the insulation covering for heat cords, electrical cables and electrical heating elements.
Asbestos yarns of various types and grades	Yarns made from strand of twisted asbestos fiber, sometimes twisted with other fibers to create six types of asbestos yarn.	Used to make roving and textiles for insulation and electrical industries
Asbestos cord	A uniform strand made from several ends of any kind of yarn that are twisted together	Used in the electrical industry and, when treated with gums, starches, waxes or resins, can obtain special properties, depending on use.

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Asbestos thread	fine, pliable wire, such as nickel or nichrome, which is twisted with yarn	Was designed to accommodate each purchaser and it is usually used for conditions of high heat, weathering, rot or the need for a strong asbestos product that is uniform in diameter
Asbestos wick	Made from numerous strands of soft roving twisted to form a pliable strand	Used by the plumbing industry as a low pressure packing for steam and hot water valves, often on exhaust lines, as a seal for ovens or furnace doors and for wire wiping and for caulking retorts
Asbestos rope	Similar to asbestos wick except that it is made from a firmer roving	Used as a seal for fire doors and traps, as a covering for exhaust lines and boilers and for lagging, furnace and generator door packing, heat treating furnaces, and boiler explosion and stove clean-out doors
Asbestos wire wiping cord and wick	Strong, flexible and made from long fibers	Used for wiping excess spelter and metallic deposit from different kinds of wire and metal surfaces
Asbestos cloth: regular asbestos cloth	Asbestos cloth was produced by SAC in plain, twill metallic and herringbone versions & was available in different styles, textures, grades, weights and thicknesses. Asbestos herringbone cloth was developed exclusively by the Southern Asbestos Manufacturing Company & it was a stronger, more durable version than the others.	The herringbone cloth was primarily used in the safety clothing industry for gloves, mittens, aprons, leggings, helmets, suits and miscellaneous items.

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Asbestos cloth: asbestos treated cloth		Asbestos treated cloth is produced when the asbestos cloth is treated with a compound and then subjected to heat and pressure to binds the fibers together, resulting in durability. It is used for durable and abrasion resistant cloths that need to withstand unusually high temperatures.
Asbestos dust bags		Used to filter products from fumes or air currents, under conditions of excessive heat. They were also used when static electricity or sparks from machinery may ignite mixtures of fine particles in air conveyor systems.
Asbestos tape	either plain or metallic form	Used by the electrical industry as an insulator and as a carrier for insulating varnishes or treatments.
Oil burner asbestos wicking		Used for the various types of oil burners
Asbestos tubing: braided and woven		Braided tubing was a lighter weight and was used both as a flexible fireproof sleeving for insulating electrical wires and cables against failure of adjoining cables and to cover pincers and tongs in the glass industry. Woven tubing was used as an insulator for bus bard in transforming stations and at switch-boards.

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#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

Being a portion (all of Tract 1) of that certain tract formerly conveyed to Southern Industrial Products Company, Inc., by Deed Book 4626, Page 619, Tax # 078-425-01 of the Mecklenburg County Registry.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the entire parcel of Tract 1 on which the buildings are situated and historically associated with the nominated property. No historically associated resources have been excluded.

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**PHOTOGRAPH LIST**

The following information pertains to every photograph:

**Southern Asbestos Company Mills, 1000 Seaboard Street  
Mecklenburg County, NC  
Robert Powers  
December 2006  
Powers & Company, Inc.**

<b><u>Photograph #</u></b>	<b><u>Description of View</u></b>
1	Mill #1, West elevation, Bridge, South elevation, Mill #2, East elevation, view Northwest
2	Mill #1, West elevation, view Southeast
3	Mill #2, East elevation, view Southwest
4	Mill #2, West elevation, view Northeast
5	Mill #2, West elevation, view Southeast
6	Mill #2, East elevation, Bridge, North elevation, Mill #1, North and East elevations, view South
7	Mill #2, Middle level, North end, view South
8	Mill #1, Upper level, Southeast corner, view Southwest
9	Mill #1, Upper level, North end, view Southeast